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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Bolivia – Floods

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

March 23, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated March 9, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Two U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) standard medical kits, provided by USAID/OFDA, arrived in Bolivia on March 18. Each kit contains medical supplies and equipment to treat approximately 10,000 people for three months. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the Centro de Investigación, Educación, y Servicios (CIES), two non-governmental organizations, are distributing the kits.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	446,500	GOB ¹ – March 18, 2007
Deaths	54	GOB – March 18, 2007
Internally Displaced Persons	25,000	OCHA ² – February 28, 2007

FY 2007 USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance for Bolivia Floods **\$846,841**
USAID/Bolivia Assistance for Bolivia Floods **\$213,640**
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance for Bolivia Floods **\$1,060,481**

CURRENT SITUATION

- Flooding in eight of Bolivia's nine departments has affected nearly 450,000 people, resulted in the deaths of 54 people, and led to the disappearance of eight others. As of March 16, flood waters in the worst affected departments of Beni and Santa Cruz had begun to recede. In Pando Department in northern Bolivia, however, the Mamoré, Itenez, Orthon, Madre de Dios, and Beni rivers continue to rise. Flood-affected families in Pando Department continued to be displaced.
- On March 21, the GOB Departmental Center of Emergency Operations declared a red alert in Puerto Pacay, Puerto Céspedes, and Nueva Uroa zones of Santa Cruz Department due to rising levels of the Grande River. Officials began evacuation and rescue missions in affected communities on March 20.

Health

- Humanitarian assistance organizations and Bolivian health authorities continue to monitor the health of affected populations. Approximately 2,450 suspected and confirmed cases of dengue fever have been reported. On March 12, the GOB Ministry of Health and Sports, in coordination with the GOB Armed Forces, began a health campaign in Trinidad, Beni Department, to prevent the spread of water- and sanitation-related diseases. The campaign includes mosquito fumigation, the elimination of standing water and mosquito breeding grounds, and rodent elimination.
- USAID/OFDA is assisting populations affected by disease by providing two WHO standard medical kits and funds for health programming through USAID/Bolivia.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On January 22, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg declared a disaster due to the effects of the flooding. In response, USAID has provided more than \$1 million to assist affected populations. USAID staff have been on the ground in Santa Cruz and Beni departments conducting assessments to determine humanitarian needs.
- To date, USAID/OFDA and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) have supported three airlifts of humanitarian commodities worth \$375,616, including transport. The airlifts have included a total of 7,800 water containers, 7,336 hygiene kits, and 290 rolls of plastic tarpaulin from USAID/OFDA, and four water pumps from DOD. USAID/OFDA provided transport for the first two airlifts, and DOD provided transport for the third airlift.
- Through existing programs, USAID/Bolivia has provided \$213,640 in temporary shelters, health supplies, medical services, and emergency relief supplies including kitchen cooking kits, and mosquito nets. USAID/Bolivia has also supported emergency road repairs.
- Additional information on USAID assistance follows.

¹ Government of Bolivia

² U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ADRA	Emergency Relief Supplies, Emergency Shelter	Santa Cruz Department	\$65,000
ADRA	Health	Beni and Pando Departments	\$17,200
American Red Cross	Agriculture and Food Security	Beni Department	\$100,000
CIES	Health	Beni Department	\$117,199
USAID/Bolivia	Health; Emergency Relief Supplies; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$170,000
ADRA, CIES, and World Vision ²	Emergency Relief Supplies ³	Santa Cruz and Beni Departments	\$375,616
	Administrative Support		\$1,826
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$846,841
USAID/BOLIVIA ASSISTANCE			
USAID/Bolivia	Emergency Relief Supplies, Emergency Shelter, Health, and Emergency Repairs for Roads	Beni, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz Departments	\$213,640
TOTAL USAID/BOLIVIA			\$213,640
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA IN FY 2007			\$1,060,481

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 23, 2007.

² CIES and World Vision are distributing relief supplies only in Beni Department.

³ Includes transport.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Bolivia may be available at www.reliefweb.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/